



# Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2006

## *Points of interest:*

- Full Delegation Coming
- Check out our Teams
- United Nations Bill of Rights for Children
- Events in the Community
- Joke Corner
- Feedback form
- Board of Directors

## First Edition...

"We need to feel a part of a greater whole in a cooperative way, while still feeling independent and autonomous."

Weyt'kp! Welcome to the First Edition of the Secwepemc Child and Family Newsletter.

We have begun the daunting task of readying ourselves for full Delegation. What this means is that we will receive

full authority from the Province of British Columbia to provide services that are: Intake/ Investigation of child abuse and/or neglect, full guardianship services, family support services.

With some new editions to the staff and restructuring of our agency, we hope to eventually provide a full compliment of services as needed by the communities we serve.



We look forward to continuing the work of protecting children!

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## STEVE KNUDSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My name is Steve Knudson and I am the Director of Secwepemc Child and Families.

I was born in England and moved to Canada in 1969. I have been a social worker for 28 years. I was given the responsibility of directing this agency in September 2005.



2006 will be an important year for Secwepemc Child and Families as we will take on a complete range of child welfare responsibilities.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff and I am optimistic we are building an agency that will provide excellent services to Secwepemc people.

*Conferences /Career Fairs*

## ▶ February 2006

**Feb. 14/2006**—Simpw First Nation "Visions of the Future" Career Fair 2006 @ Simpwcw First Nation Community Hall 9am-3pm. A gathering of post-secondary institutes and prospective employers to provide you with information on potential career choices. For more info, contact Amanda Celesta: phone: (250)672-9995 or by fax (250)672-5858. Please RSVP by Jan. 24/2006.

**March 12-15/05—Gathering our Voices: Aboriginal Youth Conference.**

We invite aboriginal youth (13-24) to gather in Kamloops at Thompson Rivers University and take part in a dynamic and educational conference over spring break. The focus will be on aboriginal health and justice issues. It will feature: interactive and informative workshops, career and education fair, cultural teachings, group activities, and Youth talent Showcase! Early registration is \$100 until Feb. 11/06, and \$150 from Feb. 12 until event. For every early registered group/class of 5 youth, the 6th registrant is FREE!!! Contact: Dian Biin—[youth.conference@bcaafc.com](mailto:youth.conference@bcaafc.com), 1.800.990.2432 (or) 1.250.388.5522 This conference is hosted by the Provincial Aboriginal Youth Councils and BC Assn. of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 visions of the future career fair	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

## GUARDIANSHIP TEAM



*Weyt'kp*

Greetings from the Guardianship team!

Our team consists of Darlene Blankinship, Kim Grant and Terry Porter and myself as Supervisor. We are responsible for the Guardianship of children in Continuing Custody. These are children that are in foster care for long term and require continual support and will remain in care until

they reach the age of majority. We have the privilege of doing permanency planning with these kids to help create stable, consistent and supportive environments for them. To date our team has typically worked all the bands in our service area. We look forward to continuing our involvement with people in all of our other Secwepemc communities!

*Putucw,*

Lenora Starr & Team



Terry Porter

Kim Grant



Darlene Blankinship

## FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year from the Family Support Workers at Secwepemc Child & Family Services.

Our agency has grown so much in the past few years that we had to do a bit of restructuring in our agency.

I would like to introduce the Family Support Workers team, Darlene Vallee, Judy Green, Shannon McDonald and myself, Gail Peterson Family Support Worker Supervisor.

We receive our referrals for support services from the Secwepemc Case workers. The case



*L to R—Judy Green, Darlene Vallee, Gail Peterson, Shannon McDonald*

workers are now split into two teams the Guardianship team and the Intake team.

Referral services range from one to one counseling, to life skills training. We develop a rapport with the families and their communities in hope to preserve and prevent more children entering into care.

We hope that the new changes will help our agency serve our clientele more efficiently.

I welcome everyone to drop in to meet the staff or to phone to enquire about our services.

*Putucw,*  
Gail Peterson – Family Support Worker Supervisor

## INTAKE TEAM

Trina Redman, Shirley Selski, Heidi Generaux and Jared Van Somer would like to introduce ourselves as Secwepemc Child and Family Services' intake team. We provide support to families, the initial response to family and community concerns, and work with individuals through the Family Court Process.

We work toward the goal of keeping children with their families and believe in the value of working from a cul-



*L to R - Trina Redman, Shirley Selski, Heidi Generaux, Jared Van Somer*

tural perspective. Contact any of us if you might benefit from a family support worker or have concerns about the well-being of a child or family in your community.

We look forward to continuing to provide support, meeting you at the community events, and social and cultural gatherings.

All of our Relations.

If you think a child might be abused or neglected, call us. We can help.

**HELPLINE FOR CHILDREN**

**310-1234**

**KEEPING KIDS SAFE**

# OUR OFFICE TEAM

The last few months have been very fast paced and the New Year brings exciting challenges and new beginnings. The staff is busy with hectic schedules and is anticipating the prospect of attaining full delegation. As a result of being fully delegated, the agency will have to relocate to a new location. Currently, we are seeking out potential locations and the move will not be occurring any time soon. If you have any questions regarding the agency, please contact myself ( Zena Quock) and I will assist with any questions you may have.

We are pleased and honored to welcome Matilda Morgan to the position of Filing Clerk. Matilda commenced her position with the agency in October 2005 and has exceeded our expectations. Her duties are to maintain the files and input data for staff into the Ministry system. She also assists the Finance Assistant and Resource worker when need be. Matilda has demonstrated excellence in her field and all staff would agree that her position and presence is very much appreciated. Welcome Matilda!

Today, administration is continuously working to ensure that the office is maintained and operating efficiently to aid the frontline workers to carry out their duties. Overall, we are a team-building organization working in the best interest of the children and families of the Secwepemc nations affiliated with the agency. We look forward to meeting and working with individuals seeking out our services.

-Zena Quock, Office Manager



Zena Quock, Ronda Evans  
(above), Matilda Morgan, (below)



## Quality Assurance Feedback

We would like to hear from you ways that you believe will improve our delivery of service in your community. Kukstemc!

How are our services?

- Exceptional  
 OK  
 Room for improvement

What is most important?

- Career Planning  
 Parenting  
 Family Preservation

Comments:

What lessons should kids in care receive about culture?

- Language and traditions  
 Connecting to Elders  
 Life Skills

How much do you know about your own wellness?

- Lots. I am constantly working on myself  
 Some, not sure.  
 What is wellness?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?  
WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS....PLEASE CONTACT:**

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225-355 Yellowhead Hwy. V2H 1H1  
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1

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reception@secwepemc.org

## Joke Corner

### Laughter...natures healer...

It was autumn, and the Indians on the remote reservation asked their new Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was an Indian Chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets, and when he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared. But also being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again.

"Is it going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find. Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever.

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting wood like crazy."

# Jeff More, Therapist / Sharon Todd, Resources

Jeff More has been working for the agency since 2002 as the therapist. He is assigned to all seven bands, via referrals from the caseworkers. In his capacity as a therapist, he is only able to work with Children in Care or high risk to enter care. The agency hopes to expand to provide services to all Secwepemc children of the seven bands.

Jeff specializes in providing an art therapy approach. The idea of using art for healing is not a new idea. It is one of the primary ways First Nations' people, prior to contact with non-Native culture, used art. Examples of this fact are numerous and include characteristics of the winter dances, the sweat lodge, canoe making, and pictographs. Art therapy has proven success in working with children and trauma survivors.



**Sharon Todd** is the Family Resource Worker at Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency. Sharon is currently completing an M.Ed in Counseling Psychology with UVIC. Sharon's role within the agency is to recruit caregivers and support caregivers.

Pre-service training for caregivers took place in October and plans for additional training for caregivers are ongoing. The next training for caregivers is February 21 in Salmon Arm. The training is called "Systems for Success: Working with Children and Youth

With FASD". The training takes place 9:00 – 2:00 pm at the Shuswap Family Resource Center in Salmon Arm. This training will also take place in Kamloops in the near future. Sharon also processes requests for respite services for children in care. When children and youth require safe environments, the first preference is to place them within their own communities. Therefore, it is very important to have caregivers within each of the seven communities involved in the Secwepemc Child and Family Services.

Sharon is currently accepting caregiver applications. The application information is on the SCSFA website. Finally, Sharon and the staff would like to take this opportunity to thank our past and current caregivers for their commitment to the Secwepemc children of SCFSA. Without the assistance of caregivers we could not offer services to Secwepemc children in care.

## UNITED NATIONS BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN (1989)

The right to affection, love and understanding.

The right to adequate nutrition and medical care.

The right to free education.

The right to full opportunity for play and recreation.

The right to a name and nationality.

The right to be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster.

The right to learn to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities.

The right to be brought up in a spirit

of universal peace and brotherhood.

The right to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin.

## Finance Department, the roots and bones....



Debbie Poitras, Cindy Gaspard

The Finance Department's primary function is to provide financial information, technical support and advice on the whole of Secwepemc Child and Family Services. Funds are sent to Caregivers, employee payroll, Board of Directors, and other much needed services that

our agency requires. Debbie Poitras is soon to be leaving on maternity leave, and Cindy Gaspard will be filling in while Deb is away. Sherry Geddes, Finance Officer, will be starting sometime in the middle to end of February. We look forward to assisting you in any way we can.

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This is an eagle staff that was presented to Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency at the 2005 Honoring Our Children Ceremony held at Bonaparte, B.C. The staff was presented by **Bill Zabolte**, a member of the Bonaparte Band. Look in upcoming issues for a feature on Bill and the story of the eagle staff creation.



### Board of Directors

<b>Diane Jules, President</b>	<b>Adams Lake Band</b>
<b>Sandra Seymour, Vice- President</b>	<b>Kamloops Band</b>
<b>Pamela Jules, Treasurer</b>	<b>Skeetchestn Band</b>
<b>Andrea Lebourdais Secretary</b>	<b>Whispering Pines/Clinton Band</b>
Gladys Arnouse	Adams Lake Band
Gordon Antoine Wanda Antoine	Bonaparte Band
Lisa Brown	Neskonlith
Celena Slater Joan Miller	North Thompson Band
Carol Deneault	Skeetchestn
Michael Lebourdais	Whispering Pines/Clinton Band

**Look for upcoming submissions from our Board of Directors....**

## The Mask I Wear

Don't be fooled by me.  
Don't be fooled by the face I wear  
For I wear a mask. I wear a thousand  
masks-  
masks that I'm afraid to take off  
and none of them are me.

Pretending is an art that's second nature  
with me,  
but don't be fooled,  
for God's sake, don't be fooled.

I give you the impression that I'm secure  
That all is sunny and unruffled with me  
within as well as without,  
that confidence is my name  
and coolness my game,  
that the water's calm  
and I'm in command,  
and that I need no one.  
But don't believe me. Please!

My surface may be smooth but my surface  
is my mask,  
My ever-varying and ever-concealing mask.  
Beneath lies no smugness, no complacence.  
Beneath dwells the real me in confusion, in  
fear, in aloneness.

But I hide this.  
I don't want anybody to know it.  
I panic at the thought of my  
weaknesses  
and fear exposing them.  
That's why I frantically create my masks  
to hide behind.  
They're nonchalant, sophisticated facades  
to help me pretend,  
To shield me from the glance that  
knows.  
But such a glance is precisely my salvation,  
my only salvation,  
and I know it.

That is, if it's followed by acceptance,  
and if it's followed by love.  
It's the only thing that can liberate me from  
myself  
from my own self-built prison walls

I dislike hiding, honestly  
I dislike the superficial game I'm playing,  
the superficial phony game.  
I'd really like to be genuine and me.  
But I need your help, your hand to hold  
Even though my masks would tell you otherwise

That glance from you is the only thing that  
assures me  
of what I can't assure myself,  
that I'm really worth something.

But I don't tell you this.  
I don't dare.  
I'm afraid to.  
I'm afraid you'll think less of me, that you'll  
laugh  
and your laugh would kill me.  
I'm afraid that deep-down I'm nothing,  
that I'm just no good  
and you will see this and reject me.

So I play my game, my desperate, pretend-  
ing game  
With a facade of assurance without,  
And a trembling child within.  
So begins the parade of masks,

The glittering but  
empty parade of masks,  
and my life

